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Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 94 (see A/58/484, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 34th, and 40th meetings, on 12 November and 16 December 2003. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/58/SR.34 and 40).

II. Consideration of proposals

Draft resolutions A/C.2/58/L.30 and A/C.2/58/L.79

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Morocco, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/58/L.30), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling also its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

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"*Recalling further* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-second special session, and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 55/202 of 20 December 2000, 56/198 of 21 December 2001 and 57/262 of 20 December 2002,

"*Recalling* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the emphasis given to small island developing States in its chapter VII, as well as the references to the specific needs of small island developing States contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Monterrey Consensus,

"*Recalling* its decision to convene an international meeting in 2004, including a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Plan of Implementation,

"*Welcoming* the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the international meeting and expressing its appreciation to the Governments of Samoa, Cape Verde and Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the regional preparatory meetings,

"*Reaffirming* the political importance of the forthcoming ten-year review of the progress achieved since the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and stressing that the risk from the vulnerabilities of and challenges to small island developing States has increased and requires the strengthening of cooperation and more effective development assistance,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Adopts* the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the Declaration as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

"3. *Decides* that the International Meeting shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences and with the rules of procedure of the International Meeting as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

"4. *Reiterates* the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and of the Declaration and the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;

"5. *Decides* that the International Meeting will be convened from 30 August to 3 September 2004, and will include a high-level segment to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of

Implementation, and welcomes the offer of the Government of Mauritius to host the International Meeting;

"6. *Decides also* to hold two days of informal consultations in Mauritius on 28 and 29 August 2004;

"7. *Urges* that representation and participation at the International Meeting be at the highest possible level;

"8. *Decides* that the International Meeting will seek a renewed political commitment by the international community and focus on practical actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into consideration new and emerging issues, challenges and situations since the adoption of the Programme of Action;

"9. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/55 of 24 July 2003, in which it decided, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene an interregional preparatory meeting for small island developing States in Nassau, Bahamas, from 26 to 30 January 2004, and encourages participation at the ministerial level in the meeting;

"10. *Also endorses* the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/55, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene during its twelfth session a three-day preparatory meeting for the International Meeting from 14 to 16 April 2004 for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to finalize the preparations for the International Meeting, including its agenda;

"11. *Decides* that the preparatory meeting shall be open-ended and allow for the full and effective participation of all Member States as well as specialized agencies, and encourages relevant regional and international agencies and organizations and major groups identified in Agenda 21, to effectively contribute to, and participate in the preparatory meeting, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"12. *Welcomes* efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action, and takes note of the reports from the regional preparatory meetings for the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas and Caribbean regions of small island developing States;

"13. *Decides* that the associate members of the regional commissions that are small island developing States shall participate in the International Meeting in accordance with rule 61 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

"14. *Also decides* that the accreditation and participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the International Meeting shall be in accordance with rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;

"15. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in consultation with small island developing States, to appoint a Secretary-General for the International Meeting;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, and taking into account the submissions he may receive from bilateral, regional and multilateral donor agencies as well as from major groups, including non-governmental organizations, to ensure the timely submission to the twelfth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development of a synthesis report on the basis of the national, regional and interregional preparations and reports by small island developing States and by other parties;

"17. *Decides* that the necessary resources will be provided to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, to ensure that the goals and purposes of the International Meeting receive the widest possible dissemination within Member States, major groups, including non-governmental organizations, and national, regional and international media, including through the Small Island Developing States Information Network, with a view to encouraging contribution to and support for the International Meeting and its preparatory process;

"18. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States to participate fully and effectively in the International Meeting and its preparatory process, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2003/55 and decision 2003/283 of 24 July 2003, and invites all Member States and organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

"19. *Decides* to support the participation of developing countries in the International Meeting through the provision of adequate resources;

"20. *Welcomes* the coordinating efforts undertaken in the United Nations system through the creation of an inter-agency task force to enable the United Nations system to improve coordination and enhance cooperation on matters pertaining to the preparatory process and the International Meeting itself;

"21. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through the Division for Sustainable Development and its Small Island Developing States Unit, to undertake activities in both the preparatory processes and the International Meeting by, inter alia, enhancing coordination within the United Nations system as well as with other relevant multilateral organizations, including through increased institutional arrangements in order to ensure effective implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

"22. *Also calls upon* the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to continue and to intensify its role of advocacy, in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations as well as with major groups, media, academia and foundations in the mobilization of international support and resources for the successful outcome of the International Meeting,

and for the follow-up of the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

"23. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 56/198 and paragraph 13 of resolution 57/262, through the immediate creation of a permanent post, to enable the Unit effectively to assist in the preparation of the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action and in the implementation of the outcomes of the International Meeting;

"24. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: follow-up of the outcomes of the International Meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action', and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session the report of the International Meeting."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 16 December, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Irena Zubčević (Croatia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/58/L.79), which she submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.30.

4. At the same meeting, the attention of the Committee was drawn to a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.79, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/58/L.50).

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.79 (see para. 8).

6. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of the United States of America and Mauritius made a statement.

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.79, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling also its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[3] and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 55/202 of 20 December 2000, 56/198 of 21 December 2001 and 57/262 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[5] in particular the emphasis given to small island developing States in chapter VII of the Plan of Implementation, as well as the references to the specific needs of small island developing States contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[6] and the Monterrey Consensus,[7]

Recalling its decision to convene an international meeting in 2004,[8] including a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Plan of Implementation,

Welcoming the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the international meeting, and expressing its appreciation to the Governments of Samoa, Cape Verde and Trinidad and Tobago for hosting regional preparatory meetings,

Reaffirming the political importance of the forthcoming ten-year review of the progress achieved since the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

[7] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[8] Resolution 57/262, para. 5.

Small Island Developing States, and stressing that the risk from the vulnerabilities of and challenges to small island developing States has increased and requires the strengthening of cooperation and more effective development assistance towards achieving the goals of sustainable development,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Approves* the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as contained in the note by the Secretary-General;[10]

3. *Decides* that the International Meeting shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences and with the rules of procedure of the International Meeting;

4. *Welcomes* the efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action,[2] and takes note of the reports of the regional preparatory meetings for the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, South China Seas and Caribbean regions of small island developing States;

5. *Reiterates* the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, the Declaration of Barbados[4] and the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session[5] so as to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;

6. *Decides* that the International Meeting will be convened from 30 August to 3 September 2004 and will include a high-level segment to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[5] and welcomes the offer of the Government of Mauritius to host the International Meeting;

7. *Also decides* to hold, if deemed necessary by an open-ended preparatory meeting, and if funded from voluntary resources, two days of informal consultations in Mauritius, on 28 and 29 August 2004, to facilitate the effective preparation of the International Meeting;

8. *Urges* that representation and participation at the International Meeting be at the highest possible level;

9. *Decides* that the International Meeting will seek a renewed political commitment by the international community and will focus on practical actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into consideration new and emerging issues, challenges and situations since the adoption of the Programme of Action;

[9] A/58/170.

[10] A/58/567 and Corr. 1.

10. *Endorses* Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/55 of 24 July 2003, in which it decided, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene an interregional preparatory meeting for small island developing States in Nassau from 26 to 30 January 2004, expresses its appreciation to the Government of the Bahamas for hosting the meeting, and encourages participation in the meeting at the ministerial level;

11. *Also endorses* the decision of the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/55, on the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eleventh session, to convene during the twelfth session of the Commission a three-day preparatory meeting for the International Meeting, from 14 to 16 April 2004, for an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to finalize the preparations for the International Meeting, including its agenda;

12. *Decides* that the preparatory meeting shall be open-ended and shall be held in accordance with the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the supplementary arrangements established for the Commission on Sustainable Development by the Council in its decisions 1993/215 of 4 March 1993 and 1995/201 of 8 February 1995, applied to all Member States and other participants, as was the practice in the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, while maintaining the provisions of the Commission in relation to travel assistance, in accordance with the provisions of Economic and Social Council decision 2003/283 of 24 July 2003;

13. *Encourages* associate members of the regional commissions that are small island developing States to participate in the International Meeting, and decides that their participation shall be in accordance with rule 61 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting;

14. *Decides* that the participation of major groups, including non-governmental organizations, in the International Meeting shall be in accordance with rule 65 of the provisional rules of procedure of the International Meeting;

15. *Also decides* that non-governmental organizations whose work is relevant to the subject of the International Meeting, that are not currently accredited by the Economic and Social Council may submit applications to participate as observers in the International Meeting, as well as its preparatory meeting, subject to the approval of the open-ended preparatory meeting;

16. *Takes note* of the appointment of a Secretary-General of the International Meeting;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, and taking into account the submissions he may receive from bilateral, regional and multilateral donor agencies as well as from major groups, including non-governmental organizations, to ensure the timely submission to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its twelfth session of a synthesis report on the basis of the national, regional and interregional preparations and reports by small island developing States and other parties;

18. *Requests* that the necessary resources, from within existing resources, be provided to the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to ensure that

the goals and purposes of the International Meeting receive the widest possible dissemination within Member States, major groups, including non-governmental organizations, and national, regional and international media, including through the Small Island Developing States Information Network, with a view to encouraging contributions to and support for the International Meeting and its preparatory process;

19. *Expresses its appreciation* for the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund established for the purpose of assisting small island developing States to participate fully and effectively in the International Meeting and its preparatory process, as approved by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 2003/55 and decision 2003/283,[11] and urges all Member States and organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

20. *Encourages* the full and effective participation of developing countries in the International Meeting, and invites donor countries and agencies to provide additional extrabudgetary resources, in particular through voluntary contributions to the trust fund, to facilitate their participation;

21. *Welcomes* the coordinating efforts undertaken in the United Nations system through the creation of an inter-agency task force to enable the United Nations system to improve coordination and enhance cooperation on matters pertaining to the preparatory process and to the International Meeting itself;

22. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through the Division for Sustainable Development and its Small Island Developing States Unit,[12] to undertake activities in both the preparatory processes and the International Meeting to enhance coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system as well as with other relevant multilateral organizations to ensure the effective implementation, monitoring and follow-up to the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

23. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States[13] to fulfil its mandate and to advocate strongly, in partnership with the relevant parts of the United Nations as well as with major groups, media, academia and foundations, for the mobilization of international support and resources for the successful outcome of the International Meeting and for the follow-up to the outcomes of the ten-year review of the Programme of Action;

24. *Welcomes* the generous contributions by donors to provide staffing of the Small Island Developing States Unit, and calls upon the Secretary-General to explore practical options for strengthening the Unit, including through redeployment of resources, on a permanent basis during the biennium 2004-2005, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 56/198 and 57/262, with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action and the outcomes of the International Meeting;

[11] See also A/C.2/58/4.

[12] As mandated by the Programme of Action, para. 123, and General Assembly resolution 49/122, para. 15.

[13] See resolution 56/227.

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States: follow-up of the outcomes of the International Meeting to review the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session the report of the International Meeting.